

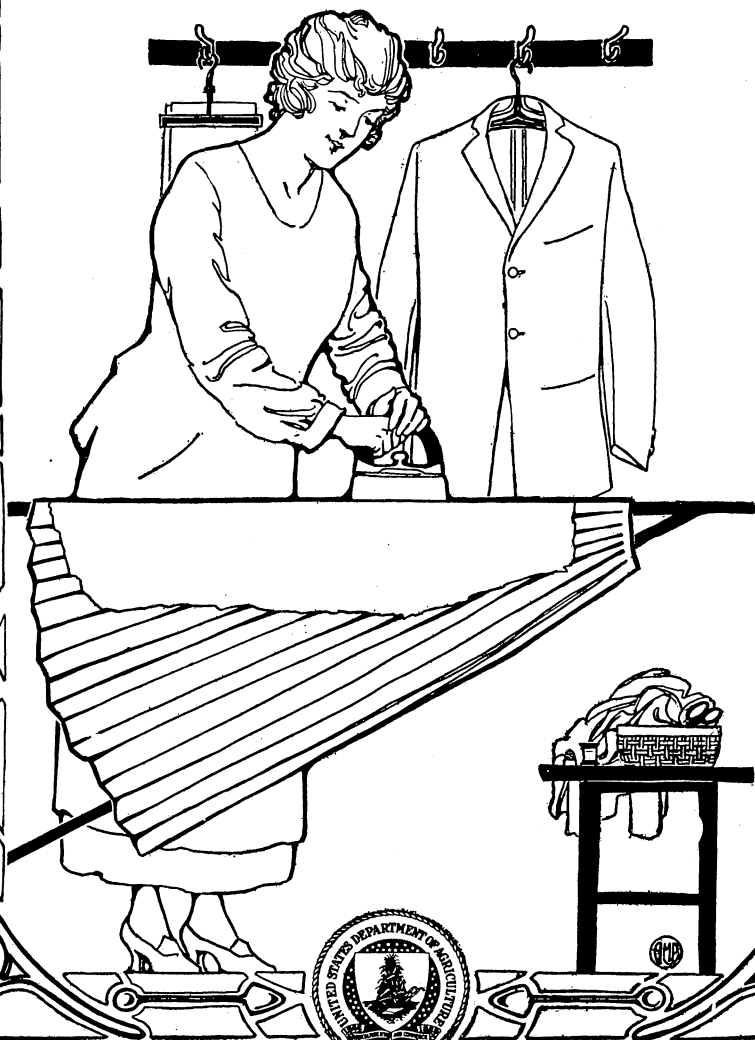
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FARMERS BULLETIN 1089
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SELECTION AND CARE OF CLOTHING



THE COST OF CLOTHING has been rising rapidly; therefore more than ever we need to know how to choose and use our garments wisely.

This bulletin gives practical suggestions as to how to select clothing that will be both attractive and durable and how to care for it so that it will render full service.

Contribution from the States Relations Service

A. C. TRUE, Director

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SELECTION AND CARE OF CLOTHING.

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THRIFT IN SELECTION AND CARE OF CLOTHING.

UNTIL RECENTLY many Americans did not seriously practice thrift in the selection and care of their clothing, some because they had never thought about it, some because they did not know simple ways to do it, some because they felt that to be thrifty about clothing meant wearing coarse undergarments and unattractive outer clothing.

Conditions during the last few years have been forcing people to look at the question from a different point of view. Prices have risen so high that unless the income has increased in proportion, it is a serious problem how to dress as well as the standard demands without spending more money than can be afforded. During the war the shortage of materials and labor caused patriotic citizens to buy as little new clothing as possible. The interest that this aroused in selecting and utilizing the wardrobe to the best possible advantage did not cease with the fighting.

Wise spending for clothing, as for everything else, does not mean going without what we need or can legitimately afford. It means deciding definitely what we really want and how much we ought to pay for it, and then trying to procure it as economically as possible and to get from it the maximum of service.

Clothing should always be comfortable and healthful; it must protect the body from cold, heat, moisture, and rough surfaces, according to need, and must allow freedom in all bodily movements. Its lines should be in harmony with or improve the lines of the figure;

it should produce a favorable impression of the wearer's individuality, and be suitable to the occasion upon which it is worn. The clothing problem for the individual or the family is how best to obtain this result with the money and the time that can be spent.

It is sometimes assumed that men and boys do not need to understand the details of the clothing problem, but the normal man or boy is just as much concerned with presenting a good appearance as his mother, wife, or sister. He chooses at least part of his clothing, and may even himself have the responsibility of keeping it in order. Boys as well as girls should therefore be taught how to select and care for their wardrobes.

A SPENDING PLAN FOR CLOTHING.

The systematic handling of expenses is an essential of thrift, in personal and family affairs as well as in the conduct of business. The person who does the family buying should know how the portion of the income devoted to household and personal needs is being spent and whether just returns are obtained from the expenditures. The first thing to do is to make a spending plan, or budget, and in it to set down the amounts to be devoted to rent, food, clothing, and the other items of expenditure. The part of the budget considered here is the apportionment for clothing (underclothing, outer clothing, accessories, and necessary care, repairs, and cleaning).

The total allowance for clothing will depend upon the amount of the income and the business and social demands upon individuals in the family. The average allowance for a family is between one-sixth and one-fourth of the income. The apportionment of this allowance among the members of the family will vary from time to time according to their needs. Of the total clothing allowance 70 per cent might be needed for outer clothing, such as coats, suits, dresses, shoes, etc., and 20 per cent for underclothing, while 5 per cent might be allowed for accessories, and 5 per cent for cleaning and repairs.

It is best to make such a budget for a period of at least a year, and some persons prefer to make clothing budgets for two or three years, because certain articles, such as raincoats, topcoats, and furs, may not be purchased oftener than that.

In making a budget, it is helpful to estimate how much money was used the year before for the different items of expenditure. If no accounts have been kept, this can be done roughly from memory or from back bills and check stubs. Persons who use budgets soon know the cost of the different items, and after a few years of record keeping do not need to work out everything on paper. In fact, the point of using a budget is to find where the income should and actually does go, and whether this information is in the head, in a book, or on filing cards is of minor importance.

TAKING STOCK OF LEFT-OVER CLOTHING.

The next step in planning a wardrobe is to take stock of all the clothing on hand, all that was left over from the last season as well as that which is in present use. It is often worth while to make an inventory. The work of doing this is greatly simplified if at the end of each season, when garments and other articles of clothing are being put away, they are listed, together with a short account of the condition of each, its possibilities for further usefulness, and an estimate of the approximate cost of the cleaning, pressing, repairing, or remodeling necessary to make it ready for use. These estimates should include not only the money that would be paid for repairs made by dressmakers, tailors, and other professional workers, but also the time that members of the family might spend upon such work. Such time is just as truly an element of the cost of clothing as if it were paid for, and should be considered on that basis. These lists may conveniently be kept in a record book, on filing cards, or on sheets of paper or cards left in the boxes, drawers, or cupboards where the garments are stored.

With the aid of such a list, much planning can be done before the garments are actually handled. They should, however, be looked over carefully before deciding what new clothing must be bought, for some articles may not prove to be so usable as they seemed when put away.

FRESHENING AND REMAKING OLD GARMENTS.

Generally, little can be done to undergarments except to patch or darn worn places, to sew on buttons, or perhaps to rework frayed buttonholes. Sometimes unworn parts may be recut into garments for smaller persons or children, but in such cases one must be sure that the amount of wear in the made-over garment will pay for the labor expended. Drawers and undervests can be made for children from the good parts of cotton or woolen undergarments that the adult can no longer use; also the tops of stockings can be converted into various garments. Good commercial patterns are to be had for such remodeling.

There are far greater possibilities for extending the service of the outer clothing than the underclothing. Women's dresses may often be freshened and made to look new, simply by cleansing, pressing, and adding new collars, cuffs, and girdles. If this does not seem practical, they may be recut for a smaller person, or the material may be combined with some other to make a garment. Two dresses, for instance a woolen and a silk or satin one, may often be combined to make one dress.

Women's coats may sometimes be made to look new and more attractive by adding collars and cuffs of velvet or fur for winter and

of silk or satin for spring. New buttons, reworked buttonholes, and new or well-mended linings give an air of freshness. It may be better economy to recut the coat for a smaller person and use the amount thus saved toward the purchase of a new one.

A man's overcoat too badly worn for his further use may be recut to make a good overcoat for a boy; or a man's suit may be cut and made into an entire suit (jacket, trousers, and cap) for a small boy,

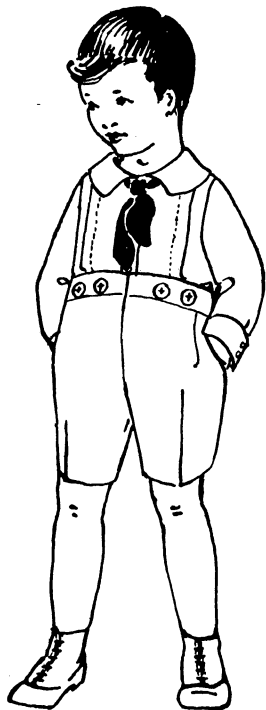


FIG. 1.—“Oliver Twist” suit for small boy. Trousers and possibly cuffs and collar made of material contrasting with waist. A good design for making over from larger garments.

the price of the boy's suit being saved toward that of a new one for the man. Men's shirts, the materials of which are strong enough to stand further wear, afford many possibilities for making over, but one must be very sure that the strength of the material will warrant the expenditure of time and labor. Children's dresses, rompers, little boys' suits, blouses, aprons for little and big, shirt waists for women, dustcaps, and laundry bags are some of the many things that may be made from shirts. (Figs. 1 and 2.)

Men's hats may be freshened by reblocking and renewing the ribbon and the sweat band. Panama hats (both men's and women's) can be cleaned and if necessary reblocked, and made to do service year after year. Some other kinds of straw hats will stand reblocking, but this is often expensive and not practicable unless the hat is made of good braid. Slightly soiled straw hats may sometimes be cleaned at home by scrubbing with lemon juice and rinsing with clear cold water. In doing this and in drying the hat afterwards great care must be taken not to change the shape. This can be accomplished, for example, by stuffing the crown with tissue paper or by pressing a flat brim against a table top. If vigorous scrubbing is necessary or if the shape needs

changing, it is better to have the hat cleaned and reblocked by a professional worker.

Colored straw hats may be steamed, brushed, or wiped with a cloth moistened with alcohol to remove all dust, or if they are faded, they may be recolored by one of the commercial solutions. White or yellow straw hats may be cleaned and bleached unless too badly sunburned, in which case they can be colored. The braid on women's hand-sewed hats can often be ripped and freshened, and sewed on a new shape. This will not pay, however, unless the braid is of very good quality.

Brushing and steaming velvet, silk, or satin hats will help to restore their freshness. If a crown on a hat is badly worn and the brim is in good condition, a new crown may be made of net on a wire frame, or of silk or satin draped over a shape of crinoline or willow. An old shape that is in good condition may be re-covered.

All trimmings (feathers, ribbons, flowers, and others) from women's and children's hats that are not too badly worn or faded for later use should be brushed and put away in a special box when the hats are discarded; in such a "piece box" may often be found the very "bit" needed for freshening last year's hat. Ostrich feathers may be recurled by drawing each flue over the back of a knife or over a special feather curler. Ribbons if soiled can be freshened by steaming and pressing. Tissue paper should be laid over them while pressing to prevent them from becoming shiny, or they may be washed and stretched to dry on an unvarnished board or table or on a marble slab. Flowers that are faded, but not crushed, can be made to look fairly new by retinting with water colors and trimming the edges of the petals. New trimmings may be made of bits of silk, velvet, or wool; the silk or velvet may be shaped into flowers or fruit, and the wool crocheted into flower shapes or embroidered in geometric designs on bands or on the hat itself.

Articles of no further service should be disposed of promptly, for some of them may be used to advantage by local charities, by relief organizations, or perhaps by individuals. If one has the leisure, a kindly thing to do is to put such articles into usable condition; or by a bit of personal self-denial one might pay for the repair of shoes, coats, or other garments for some less prosperous person.



FIG. 2.—Boy's overalls. May be made from larger garments.

LISTING NEW GARMENTS NEEDED.

After stock has been taken of the left-over clothing, a list should be made of the new garments that will be needed by each member of the family for the coming season. Care must be taken not to list unnecessary apparel; as far as possible garments should be selected that will be suitable for different occasions yet will com-

bine well with those garments already in use. If one can afford two suits or dresses and wear them alternately, they will both give longer service and the wearer will have a far greater sense of satisfaction because of not becoming tired of either. When the list is complete, the amount that can be spent for each garment should be apportioned to it. To these figures should be added the amount allowed for repairs and renovation. If the total exceeds the amount apportioned for clothing, the list should be gone over again, costs reduced where possible, and unnecessary items cut out, so that the sum is within the limit of the allowance. Better still, a margin should be left to provide for any unforeseen contingency, such as a mishap to a suit or the need for some special article of apparel, such as oftentimes arises when an unusual social event takes place or one is suddenly called away on a business trip.

CHOOSING CLOTHING.

With the list of needed garments carefully made out, it becomes an individual problem to decide how much of the clothing shall be bought ready-made, made to order, or made at home.

Ready-made clothing is often the easiest to obtain and has the advantage of showing the effect of the finished garment. It is of course more satisfactory for average figures than for those that differ decidedly from the normal. A certain amount of refitting can be done, but if the wearer's figure is much out of average proportions, the effect of the design is likely to be lost in the changes. It is generally considered that, for the same amount expended, garments made at home (especially undergarments) are usually of a better grade of material and workmanship, and therefore give longer service than those purchased ready-made. Made-to-order garments are costly, because they bear in addition to the price of the materials and the labor a percentage of the rental and other overhead expenses of the maker, to whom these items all cost more per garment than in the case of factory-made goods. On the other hand, the workmanship in good custom-made garments should be better than in ready-made ones, and for irregular figures the fit is usually more satisfactory.

The busy home-maker in many cases does not find the time to make all the clothing for her family, nor should all the time that she is free from other household duties be spent with needle and thread in hand, working under pressure to finish some needed garment. She must decide just how much time she may wisely spend on household sewing, and how far she can relieve herself by the purchase of ready-made or made-to-order clothing, and she must remember that her time has economic value even if it is not paid for in money. The business or professional woman often has little time for sewing

other than her mending; moreover she has not always had the opportunity to acquire the technical skill that renders garment construction an enjoyable task. She should, however, always be awake to the necessity of clothing herself suitably and becomingly, and should give enough time to planning her wardrobe to make her clothing expenditure with thrift and wisdom.

Every one who buys clothing needs some knowledge of textiles, as a basis for judging materials in regard to their durability (strength, firmness, fastness of color), the quality of the fiber in relation to the cost, and the suitability of different materials to the needs of the wearer. Also knowledge of the prices and widths of materials and of the processes of garment making will help in calculating quantities of materials necessary and approximate costs, and is useful in judging the value of ready-made garments. Some understanding of the principles of clothing design will aid in selecting garments that will be becoming to the wearer and suitable to the occasion upon which they will be worn.

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT TEXTILES.

Textile study becomes interesting as its practical use becomes known. For instance, everyone knows that woolen garments shrink more than cotton when they are washed, that a piece of linen which looks very fine when it is bought may prove to be thin and loosely woven after the starchy dressing is washed out, or that a silk dress or coat lining may suddenly become full of holes. If the reasons for these things are known, clothing may be selected more wisely and may perhaps prove less costly in the end.

Wool shrinks more than cotton because each wool fiber is covered with scales, which open and interlock when subjected to moisture and changes of temperature but do not go back to their original state when dried. Care in washing will prevent undue shrinkage. Cotton, being smoother and not so absorbent as wool, can not shrink so much. The piece of linen that looked so good when new was probably filled with sizing to cover up the loose weave of the cloth. The silk went to pieces before it had rendered a reasonable amount of service because it had been so heavily weighted with mineral salts during dyeing that the silk threads were soon cut by the metal deposit.

In the process of manufacture, there are many ways of treating fibers to change their character or of substituting one kind for another, all of which are legitimate provided the material is sold for what it is. When it becomes possible to standardize the quality and price of materials as the manufacture of food has been regulated by pure-food laws, it will not be necessary to exercise so much care in

purchasing materials as is now the case. A few suggestions regarding fibers and how to judge them are given here.

Cotton is rarely adulterated, but materials made of cotton are in many cases sized, that is, covered with a solution of glue, starch, or clay, which fills in the spaces between the threads and makes the material, until it is washed, seem finer and better than it really is.

Cotton yarn is often mercerized by treating it with chemicals and drying it under tension, a process that gives it a high luster and renders it smooth and strong. Mercerized cotton is excellent for many purposes; it is only when it is passed off as silk or linen at the price of these that the buyer should make objection.

Cotton is often mixed with linen, especially in towelings, which have a cotton warp and linen filling. Mercerized cotton is often used to adulterate linen, the luster making it difficult to detect the difference. These mixtures are not undesirable, especially now that pure linen is scarce, but they should be sold for what they are, not as pure linen.

The quantity of wool now produced would not permit all the woolen goods needed to be made of pure new wool; therefore it is necessary to resort to some methods of substitution. *The two most common substitutes for pure new wool are cotton and shoddy. The use of cotton for the adulteration of wool is of advantage in the case of flannels and other wash materials, as it lessens shrinkage. When used in dress materials in limited proportions, it is not unsatisfactory and provides a less expensive material for many uses. Shoddy, which is reclaimed or remanufactured wool, is made from waste pieces of wool from dressmakers' and tailors' shops and from old woolen scraps and garments that have been sold as rags. These are treated chemically to remove all the cotton, and then are torn apart so as to separate the fibers, which are spun with new yarn. The amount of wear to which the pieces were subjected will of course affect the quality of the material in which the shoddy fiber is used.*

Pure silk commands so high a price that many less expensive substitutes and adulterations have been developed. *Silk is in many cases weighted with salts of tin, iron, or lead, and is sometimes adulterated by the use of cotton. Artificial silk, a vegetable product with high luster, is now manufactured as a substitute for real silk, and is either woven with cotton or used alone. Its introduction has made the use of artificial silk stockings possible in many cases where the price of real silk hosiery was prohibitive. Good grades of artificial silk are more durable than poor grades of real silk.*

Experience will teach the good buyer to judge materials both by look and by feel; one should be able to recognize the common fibers and to discover possible mixtures or substitutions. Practice with samples of various materials will help in learning to distinguish both fiber and weave.

HOW TO TEST TEXTILE GOODS.

Simple tests that may be used in the home are given as a help to those who lack experience.

Testing with the eye and the fingers.—In the first place, both warp and filling threads should be raveled in order to examine each carefully. Cotton fibers appear short, dull, and fuzzy; linen are long, fine, stiff, and lustrous; wool are short, curly or kinky, and bright; silk are very long, fine, smooth, and straight. If cotton cloth is torn, the ends of the threads appear fuzzy, while those of linen are straight and smooth. Cotton feels soft and somewhat warm; linen feels wiry and cool.

Rubbing the surface of cotton or linen briskly will remove sizing and show whether the material is closely woven; also holding a piece of material to the light will show the extent to which sizing has been used. Boiling, which is a longer process, will also remove the dressing. A drop of glycerin on linen will show a transparent spot, but cotton is not so affected.

Burning the threads.—The presence of substitute fibers in cloth may be determined by raveling separate groups of lengthwise and crosswise threads, holding them in the fingers or by tongs, lighting the ends of the threads, and noticing how they burn.

Cotton burns quickly and steadily with a yellow flame; the odor is like that of burnt paper or wood; the flame does not go out easily; a gray ash is left.

Linen burns much like cotton, and leaves an ash.

Wool burns slowly with an unsteady blue flame that goes out easily; it gives off an odor like burning hair or feathers; a ball of ash is left on the end of the fiber.

Silk burns more readily than wool and gives off a similar odor; a ball of ash is left on the end of the thread. If silk is weighted, only the silk itself burns and the mineral salts are left, making more ash than from pure silk. If the silk is heavily weighted, the ash may even retain the shape of the sample. Artificial silk burns like cotton and is very inflammable.

Chemical tests.—The following simple chemical tests may be used in the home to determine whether silk or wool materials have cotton mixed with them, and also to determine mixtures of silk and wool, silk and cotton, or artificial silk and cotton or wool. Some of the substances called for are very powerful or even poisonous, and must be handled and stored with great caution.

(1) Combination of silk and cotton or wool and cotton. Add 1 tablespoon of caustic potash or lye to 1 pint of cold water, and heat the sample of material in this solution for 15 minutes. The lye destroys the animal fiber, leaving the cotton intact.

(2) Combination of silk and cotton, or silk and wool, or artificial silk with cotton or wool. Put a sample of the material in cold

hydrochloric acid as strong as can be bought at the drug store. The solution will destroy ordinary silk in 2 minutes, and the so-called wild silk found especially in low-grade silks in a half hour or longer. Artificial silk becomes gelatinous and so tender that it washes away. The cotton or wool fibers are left.

(3) To test underwear or white material from which a sample can not be cut, for a mixture of silk and cotton or of wool and cotton, place a drop of 5 per cent solution of picric acid on an inconspicuous part of the material or the garment. As color shows on the surface, wash the spot with water. The color will disappear from the cotton, but the silk or the wool will be yellow. This stain may be removed by using ammonia, which should be promptly rinsed out with water.

Strength test.—To test the strength of a piece of material place the ends of the thumbs together, holding the material between them and the first fingers; then pull first on the warp, or lengthwise, threads and then on the woof, or crosswise, threads to see how much strain they will stand. In examining the raveled threads of a piece of cloth, notice how the warp threads compare in strength with the woof, or filling, threads. A fine warp will not stand the strain from a heavy filling thread; therefore materials so woven are not strong, neither are those which have a heavy cord woven in beside a very fine thread, as in the striped dimities and muslins.

Experience gained through testing materials that have been bought and made up, watching the length of service, and seeing the effect of weaves and surface finishes, will aid greatly when buying materials or ready-made garments.

SUITABILITY OF MATERIAL, DESIGN, AND COLOR.

CHOOSE SIMPLE DESIGNS AND GOOD MATERIALS.

Simplicity is one word that should be borne constantly in mind when choosing articles of clothing or designs from which to make them. This applies to clothing for men, women, and children alike.

Simple designs often suggest expensive materials to carry them out, but for such designs only a minimum of material is needed. Moreover, good materials are best and most economical for long, hard service, because garments made from them retain their shape, require less frequent pressing, and do not wear shabby so quickly. Standard materials and conservative designs should be chosen in preference to novelties and extremes, which serve to date a garment, make the wearer conspicuous, and are always more expensive because the manufacturer must set a price that will cover any loss he may sustain through failure to sell all his stock during the season in which it is in vogue. Bargain sales are often pitfalls for the unwary; the inexperienced shopper is tempted to buy articles that she can never use, or that do not harmonize with the rest of her wardrobe. Nevertheless in many cases extraordinarily good values may be found at



FIG. 3.—Five dresses made from one simple pattern. Variety obtained by the use of different materials and simple decorations.

pre-inventory or end-of-season sales, because the shopkeeper does not wish to carry over the stock. With the clothing plan definitely worked out in advance, great savings can often be effected in this way.

Since the fashion of men's and boys' clothing is more nearly standardized according to the purpose for which it is worn, there is comparatively little danger of making mistakes unless perhaps in the choice of the materials themselves. The adjustment of the lines of the clothing to a man's figure is cared for by the manufacturer or the custom tailor.

Clothing for children should be of the simplest kind, and such as will permit absolute freedom of movement. Children should not be conscious of their clothing either from a sense of discomfort or from pride. In clothing for small children it is often well to use one design and vary it by means of decoration, the use of two materials, and in other simple ways (fig. 3). Washable materials are preferable for children's clothing.

SUIT THE DESIGN AND MATERIAL TO THE FIGURE.

Women's clothing requires more careful thought than that for men and children. The intermediate type of figure is not difficult to clothe attractively, but the more extreme types, the slender and the stout, need careful attention. There are plain, standard designs which, with slight alterations in line and trimming, can be adapted to different types of figures and changes of style (fig. 4).

For very tall, slight people, designs should be chosen that suggest roundness and normal height (fig. 5). Soft, full blouses, full skirts, and draped effects are good; if the height seems too great, horizontal lines brought into the costume by means of flounces, bands, and tucks, will tend to reduce it. Plaids and figured materials with large areas of design are admissible on a slight, tall figure; also soft, deep-pile stuffs for coats, and bright, shimmery, lustrous materials are good.

For the stout figure, designs should be chosen that suggest height and slenderness. Loose, easy-fitting garments with straight, unbroken lines suggest height. Lines that carry the eye to the center of the figure will diminish its breadth. No lines should carry directly across the figure, for they seem to lessen the height and increase the breadth of the figure. Separate waists and skirts, unless the waist is of the same color as the skirt or is so adjusted as to fall over the skirt, will tend to broaden the figure and diminish the height. A surplice line for the opening of the waist is good; narrow girdles draped loosely about the figure, crossed in the back, and brought to the front again with one end looped over the other, suggest height. The design shown in figure 6 brings out some of these points.

The stout woman should choose soft, nonlustrous materials, such as crêpe de chine, crêpe Georgette, serge, gabardine, voile, and batiste. Plaids and large-figured materials are out of the question,

and stripes should be cautiously chosen. Colors should be avoided that make the lines of the figure stand out prominently. Taupe, gray, and dark blue are usually best in this respect, but all dull, dark colors are safer than light or bright ones.



FIG. 4.—Simple blouse and skirt. These may be adapted to any figure, and with slight changes, such as in the shape of the sleeves and collar or in the amount of fullness in the skirt, are always in good style.



FIG. 5.—Design for tall, slender woman. The costume is divided into three distinct parts to lessen the apparent height, and horizontal tucks are used to suggest width.

SUIT THE COLORS TO THE WEARER.

Colors should be carefully chosen in reference not only to the complexion, color of the hair and eyes of the wearer, but also in relation to her figure. There is no general rule by which one can choose becoming colors. Therefore, one must rely on one's own taste, judg-

ment, and experience. In general, women with fresh, clear complexions find a greater range of becoming colors than others who have little color, but patient experimentations will discover those which are becoming to either type. It is safe to choose such colors as are in

harmony with the color of the eyes, hair, and complexion.

Dark blue is a universally becoming color. Taupe, dark blue, black, and gray in which violet predominates are good colors to be used by the woman who is stout. Bright aggressive colors make the stout figure seem larger.

Bright, gay colors may be chosen for the young, slight girlish figure, but always with a thought to the general coloring.

Having found a range of colors that are harmonious, it is well to adhere generally to these, introducing variations that may be pleasing. This permits the use of one hat, fewer gloves, ribbons, and accessories, and is therefore economical.

DESIGN AND MATERIAL SHOULD HARMONIZE.

Whether it is better to choose the designs for clothing first and then buy the material, or vice versa, must be considered from two standpoints. A design may first be selected

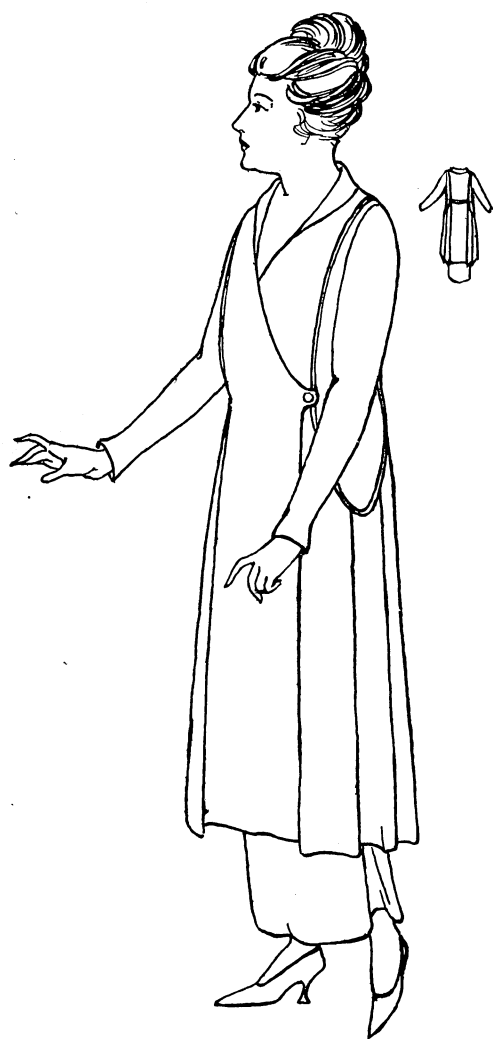


FIG. 6.—Design for stout woman. The long, straight lines suggest height; the surplice front and the curve of the side panel seem to decrease the breadth of the figure.

and difficulty then experienced in finding material suitable both for the one who is to wear it, and to carry out the design; on the other hand, some especially good material may be found suitable to the wearer and to the occasions upon which it is to be worn, and yet difficulty be found in selecting a design that will work up to

advantage. Another difficulty sometimes experienced by those who have not made a study of such problems is that although both design and material have been carefully chosen they are not adapted to each other. For instance, first a commercial pattern of good design may have been bought then later a plaid material pleasing in color and arrangement of lines, but the dress when made has not proved successful because this particular design brought the lines of the plaid together in an inharmonious fashion. A dress of this sort is an economic waste. If a pattern especially adapted to plaid material (fig. 7) had been chosen, this could not have happened. Experience will teach the buyer to think in triple terms of wearer, design, and materials.

GOOD FITTING IS ESSENTIAL.

The fitting of any garment has much to do with its appearance and comfort. It is worth while for anyone who makes many skirts, shirt waists, and dresses at home to have a well-fitted basic pattern for each member of the family. Such patterns may be drafted at home according to standard directions or made to measure at small cost by commercial companies. The main lines of these patterns must be accurately followed, but slight changes will adapt them to various simple designs. An old garment that fits satisfactorily may be ripped and used as a pattern.



FIG. 7.—Design showing satisfactory use of plaid material. The straight waist and skirt give becoming lines, while the bias vest and sleeves furnish interesting contrast.

FINISH AND TRIMMINGS ARE IMPORTANT.

Materials for the decoration of clothing should be selected with regard to their fitness for the garment and the material on which they are to be used. Cotton dresses of the tailored type, such as are worn in the house, on the street, or for business, need little decoration other than machine stitching, buttons, and separate collars and cuffs of the same material or of organdie, piqué, or light-colored materials. The dresses of sheer materials for afternoon wear, graduation ceremonies, and such occasions may be very simply finished with cordings, tiny frills of lace, ribbon girdles, and fine net collars; a bit of color may be introduced sometimes merely in a string of inexpensive beads. Wool dresses may be trimmed with buttons, braid, or wool embroidery. With these also may be worn separate collars and cuffs of crêpe Georgette, satin, organdie, net, piqué, or linen. Silk dresses for afternoon wear should be kept as simple in type as others; pipings, cordings, silk or wool embroidery, and net, organdie, or crêpe Georgette collars and cuffs are suitable for decoration and finish.

UNDERWEAR.

Women's and girls' undergarments should be of durable material and simple design. Dainty, well-made lace or embroidery edgings should be chosen. Elaborate trimming is in bad taste and moreover does not wear well. For everyday use there are a number of attractive self-trimmings (for example, tucks, shaped hems, and facings) and ornamental stitches (feather stitchings, Bermuda fagoting) that are easily made and launder well. The tendency to overdecorate undergarments is to be deplored.

Knitted underwear, socks, and stockings should be well shaped to provide for both comfort and service. Socks and stockings may be of cotton, wool, or silk, and should be long enough not to cramp the toes.

OUTER GARMENTS.

All outer clothing, men's and boys' suits and overcoats, women's and girls' suits and topcoats, should be selected from the standpoint of good materials and workmanship, their suitability to the wearer's needs, and becomingness of line and color. Careful attention should be given not only to the quality of material but to the general workmanship, cut, fit, manner of finish of seams, pockets, belts, and buttonholes—all of which count for service.

Simple one-piece dresses of wool for cold weather and of silk for summer are suitable for business women. The advantage of silk in summer is the saving in laundry bills, as an occasional cleaning at a professional establishment during the season will keep the dress in order and the wearer may further preserve its fresh appearance throughout the summer by frequent changes of collars and cuffs.

The same type of dress is appropriate also for the afternoon wear of the woman who is at home. For hard work she will probably prefer an inexpensive one that can be washed easily and frequently.

For use with the one-piece dress, a topcoat is necessary. The latter may often need to serve the purpose of business and dress wear, in which case it would be wiser to buy a raincoat for use in bad weather, to save wear and tear on the other coat. If one can not afford both a heavy and a light-weight topcoat, it may be better to buy one of medium weight and depend upon an underjacket or a piece of fur for extra warmth. For general wear some women prefer a topcoat and one-piece dress to a suit; suits, however, have a legitimate place in the woman's wardrobe, especially when combined with a waist of the same color. A good plan is to alternate the buying of the more expensive garments; for instance, not to buy a topcoat and a suit during the same season. This same plan may be carried out in the purchase of all expensive garments, whether for men, women, or children.

Blouses and separate waists for women are best made of washable materials, such as voile, batiste, handkerchief linen, crêpe de chine, crêpe Georgette, and washable silks, or madras and gingham for hard wear. The cotton materials require more frequent laundering than crêpe de chine and crêpe Georgette. Voile can be worn much longer without pressing than can any of the other cottons. Handkerchief linen is not very satisfactory because it crushes easily. For general wear tailored waists made of batiste, crêpe de chine, wash silk, or silk broadcloth, are especially suitable; simple blouses of sheer materials are also suitable when careful attention is given to detachable linings or to undergarments.

HATS.

Hats that are good in line and well made do not necessarily represent a large outlay of money. Of course, the woman who is skilled enough to make and trim her hats attractively has a great advantage over the one who must buy hers. The latter, however, if she is a good shopper, will learn to buy in good shops, and may perhaps choose a late season's model which, being well made and of good shape, will be serviceable through the beginning of the following season.

A hat is a frame for the face; therefore its lines should conform to the shape of the face and the head and to the fashion of dressing the hair. In color the hat should harmonize with the costume and the coloring of the wearer. A hat should be so worn as to carry out the idea of a suitable setting for the face, not perched conspicuously on the top of the head nor tipped back too far. The head size of a hat should be such that it will rest on the head easily and comfortably. Many of the small hats of to-day are so well shaped and fitted that they can be worn without hatpins.

There are four general types of women's hats that are always in vogue (fig. 8). Of these, the toque or the turban will serve the most purposes. Tall, slender women have more latitude in the choice of hats, especially of brims, than have short, stout women. Broad brims, particularly if they droop, appear to lessen the height of the figure, while brims that roll up on one side seem to increase the height. Height may be suggested for a short, stout figure by a hat with a crown higher on one side than on the other, or by trimming placed toward the back of the hat on one side. In order to get the effect of hats, it is well to try them before a full-length mirror and if possible with the costume with which they will be most worn.

SHOES.

Shoes should be chosen chiefly for comfort and durability. The heel should be of the height that makes the foot most comfortable. If possible, it is well to find one make of shoes well suited to the foot, and then adopt it for both walking and dress shoes. Unless one can afford several pairs of shoes to match different costumes, it is better to buy black, for they are always acceptable for either street or dress wear.

GLOVES.

Gloves should be chosen for comfort, durability, and shapeliness. Gloves bought at bargain sales do not always come up to expectations. End-of-season lots or "seconds" at the best stores will often give good satisfaction. A well-shaped glove will outwear a cheap, poorly-made one and add to the wearer's good appearance. White gloves require frequent cleansing, but colored gloves can not be guaranteed to hold the color in washing; therefore in many cases white gloves are more satisfactory. Cotton fabric gloves may often be used in place of kid to save expense, while silk gloves are so attractively made that they can take the place of kid throughout the warmer weather. White washable kid gloves are also serviceable. Woolen gloves and mittens afford warmth in winter and give long service.

CARE OF CLOTHING.

Garments even of the best quality, design, and workmanship will soon become shabby through lack of care; while those that may perhaps have cost only half as much may be kept fresh looking for a considerable length of time by the painstaking care of the wearer.

One of the greatest helps in keeping clothing in good condition is to give immediate attention to the repairs, such as mending rips and torn places, sewing on loosened buttons, fasteners, and trimmings, and reworking worn buttonholes. Also "preventive" darning may lengthen the period of service of many a garment. This is done by reinforcing a worn place with rows of fine stitches or by laying a

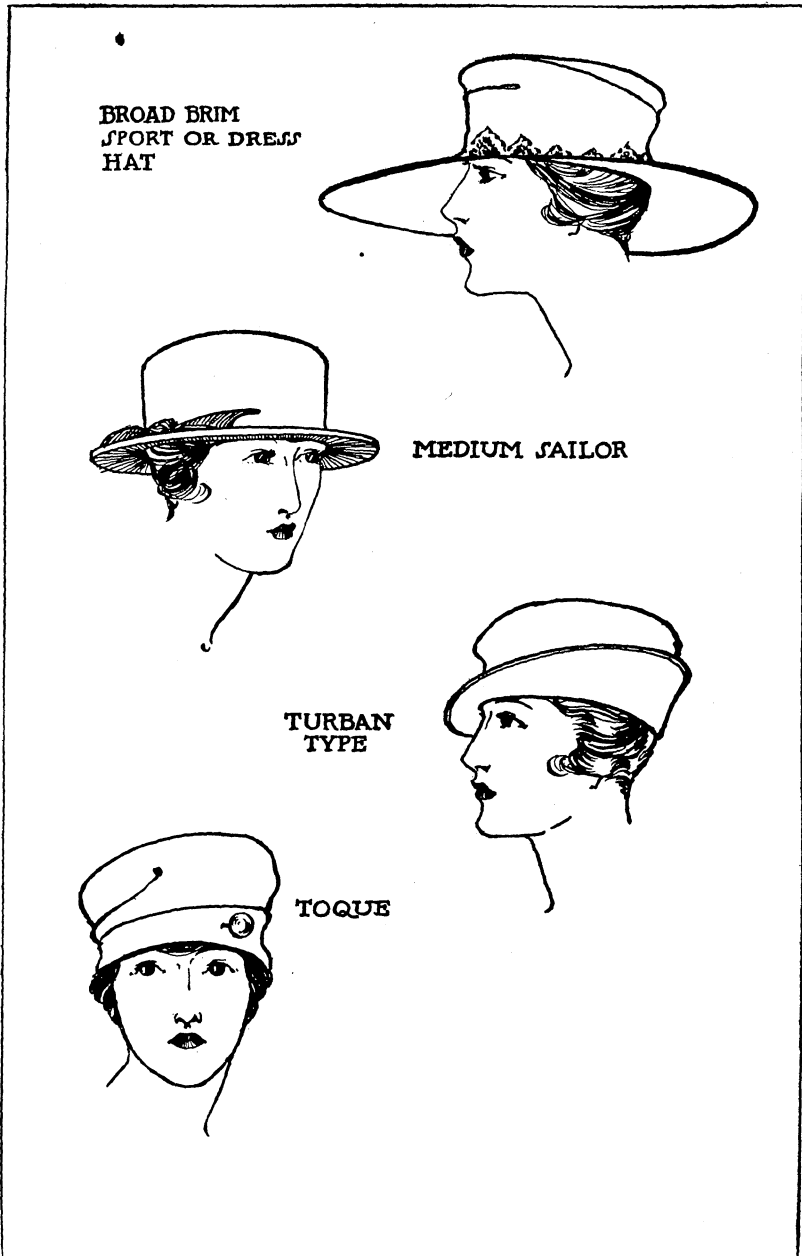


FIG. 8.—Four general types of hats. With slight variations in the size of the crown, the width of the brim, and the use of trimmings, such hats are always in vogue.

piece of cloth (like the garment if possible) under it and darning it down with ravelings of the material.

Cleanliness demands that all outer clothing should be rid of the accumulation of dust and dirt immediately after wearing. Silk and woolen garments and hats should be brushed. If one can afford them, it is well to have a collection of brushes suited to various materials, for example, one with rather short stiff bristles for heavy woolen outer clothing, a whiskbroom for general brushing, a softer bristle brush for velvet or silk, and a specially shaped soft brush for hats. A piece of velvet is also good to use for brushing dust from silk or satin. Underclothing and all other washable garments should be washed before they become so soiled that hard rubbing is necessary. Cleanliness increases the length of service from a garment and hence is real economy. This is particularly true of stockings. Frequent washing prolongs their life for two reasons; it removes perspiration and grit, which damage the fibers, and it changes the place where the strain of wear comes. The sense of comfort and self-respect that clean clothing gives will repay all the effort that it costs.

All clothing, including shoes, should be aired after wearing. Perspiration will cause wrinkles and disagreeable odors and tend to rot fabrics, unless the garments are placed in a good circulation of air before they are put in closets and boxes. Brushing and airing clothes often, and when possible out-of-doors, will do much toward keeping them fresh and clean and should supplement the nightly airing needed by garments in constant use.

The immediate removal of spots, especially from woolen garments, is desirable because dust settles in them and makes later cleansing more difficult. Methods of removing spots and stains may be found in other publications of this department.¹

The care of clothing is less expensive if one can press the garments at home. To do this easily requires special equipment, but good results may be obtained with the ordinary household equipment, with the addition of a heavy cotton cloth to use in pressing woolens. An ideal equipment, which might be acquired by making occasional additions to the appliances already in the house, consists of an ironing board of the type used for skirts, a sleeve board, a seam board, a tailor's press board, a tailor's cushion, irons, wax, cloth for rubbing off the iron after waxing, a press cloth, cheesecloth or old thin muslin, and an old bath towel.

The seam board is a triangular board, about 18 inches long, and has the upper edge slightly rounded; it is slipped into sleeves when seams are to be pressed open. The tailor's press board is supported by two upright pieces set on a heavy base. It may be used on any table and is excellent for pressing shaped and tailored garments, such

¹ U. S. Dept. Agr., Farmers' Bul. No. 861. U. S. Thrift Leaflet No. 6.

as coats. The tailor's cushion, sometimes called a ham, is oval in shape and narrower at one end than at the other; it is made of heavy cotton duck, stuffed very tight with wet woolen rags, then dried in the hot sun or in a cool oven to prevent mildew. It is used in pressing parts of garments that are curved, such as the bust of a coat. Smaller cushions made in the same way are used for the tops of sleeves. (Fig. 9.)



FIG. 9.—Using a pressing cushion.

A strip made of heavy cotton duck $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards in length makes a satisfactory press cloth, because when thoroughly wet it does not dry out quickly under the heat of the iron. An old bath towel provides a soft surface for pressing embroidered garments; it may also be used to wrap up silk waists immediately after rinsing and thus to absorb some of the water before they are ironed.

CARE OF WOOLEN COATS, SUITS, AND DRESSES.

Woolen garments should be thoroughly brushed, care being taken to brush with the nap if the cloth has such a surface, and then well shaken to remove lint and bits of dirt. The edges of tucks should be

turned back so as to remove the dust and lint that accumulates underneath. Pockets should be turned wrong side out, and stitching and the under side of seams should also be carefully brushed.

When woolen fibers are dampened and then dried, they keep the shape they had when damp. In airing woolen outer garments it is therefore necessary either to protect them against dampness or to hang them so that wrinkles will not dry in them. Slight wrinkles may often be removed by hanging the garment over a bathtub filled with water hot enough to steam, and then drying it thoroughly before wearing it or hanging it in the closet.

All spots should be removed after the garments are brushed. Sometimes a little clear water will remove a spot made by a drop of sirup, but for a spot made by grease a special cleaning agent may be necessary. Collars and lower edges of sleeves on all suits and coats need frequent cleaning. Directions for removing spots and stains, as well as for the use of various chemicals and for cleaning and washing garments, are found in other publications of this department,¹ and much minor cleaning may be done at home in a very satisfactory way if the suggestions there given are accurately followed. The cleaning of fabrics of delicate color and texture, of elaborate garments, and the removal of obstinate stains should in many cases be left to the professional establishment, as such work requires special skill and equipment.

Tears in woolens may be darned with ravelings of the material, sewing silk, or strands of hair, sometimes so skillfully that they can not be detected; a tear in a garment not given hard usage may perhaps be repaired invisibly by the use of mending tissue. This way of mending is not so durable as darning, and is not recommended for a tear that does not show or that can be satisfactorily darned.

When the edges of coat sleeves become worn, the hems may be ripped, the worn places carefully darned, and slightly deeper hems turned so as to conceal the darning. A worn lower edge of men's trousers may also be repaired by ripping the hem, darning the worn places, and facing the edge with a narrow strip of firm woolen cloth, such as light-weight broadcloth. A thin place in the seat of trousers or in the knees of boy's trousers may be reenforced by a piece of firm cotton cloth of suitable color, darned down with fine stitches to the inside of the trousers. An inner lining of thin cotton goods at the knees of men's trousers adds much to the comfort of the wearer if knee-length underwear is used.

Careful pressing will do much to keep woolen clothing in shape, and thereby to prolong its period of wear. The garment should be laid on the board and covered with the press cloth, which has been thoroughly soaked in water and well wrung out. An iron not too hot

¹ U. S. Dept. Agr., Farmers' Bul. No. 861, and U. S. Thrift Leaflets Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8.

should be moved back and forth over the press cloth until it is nearly dry. If it becomes absolutely dry, shine is likely to appear on the garment. The garment should then be hung where there is a good circulation of air and allowed to dry thoroughly before it is put away.

Parts that have worn shiny should be sponged with ammonia water (1 tablespoon of ammonia to 1 quart of water), covered with a wet press cloth, and pressed with a medium-hot iron until the press cloth is almost dry. The cloth should then be removed, the garment brushed with a stiff brush to raise the nap, and the cloth pressed again, care being taken not to let it become dry.

Bagginess at the knees of trousers or at the elbows of coats may in many cases be shrunk out by spreading the garment flat on the board, placing a well-dampened press cloth over the baggy portion, and pressing until the press cloth is not quite dry.

CARE OF SILK CLOTHING.

Silk garments should be brushed carefully with a piece of velvet or a very soft brush. Silk may be cut or marred by too vigorous brushing. Spots may be removed in much the same way as from woolen garments (p. 24). Silk garments may be dry-cleaned at home if one is very careful to use gasoline or other inflammable fluids out-of-doors where there can be no risk of explosions; or it may be advisable to send them to the professional cleaner, since he has special appliances. A suds made of neutral white soap or soap chips and cold or lukewarm water should be used for washable silk garments. If white silk shirts and waists are washed in such suds, rinsed in water of the same temperature, wrapped in a bath towel to absorb the extra moisture, and then pressed with a warm iron they will not turn yellow for a long time. Silk must be pressed carefully; in fact irons should be used on it as little as possible, during either making or wear. The dressing in new silk socks and stockings tends to make the threads break and should be washed out before they are worn. Further directions for cleaning silks are contained in other publications of this department.¹

Wrinkles may sometimes be removed from a silk dress by hanging it over a bathtub filled with water hot enough to steam and then drying it where nothing will touch it.

CARE OF COTTON AND LINEN CLOTHING.

Cotton and linen clothes do not hold dust in the same way that wool and silk do; therefore, it is sufficient to shake them to remove the dust. Brushing tends to rub the dirt into the fiber.

Cotton and linen garments, especially those that touch the skin or are worn in hot weather, should be carefully aired and frequently washed, because they absorb oil and perspiration from the body.

¹ Farmers' Bul. No. 861, and U. S. Thrift Leaflets Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8.

Too frequent pressing of partly soiled white washable garments will tend to yellow them, and colored ones may be permanently discolored in this way. In pressing cotton or linen material it must be evenly dampened, and the iron must be perfectly clean and free from rust; otherwise the material is likely to be stained with rust.

Small holes may often be invisibly darned with very fine thread, and tears or larger holes may be patched with a hemmed patch where strength is needed, or with an overhanded patch, which is less visible and not quite so strong. In some cases the torn part of the garment may be replaced with new material, which may have to be shrunk or faded to match the old. All torn places in laces or embroideries should be mended as soon as they are noticed. Embroidery or lace may be darned, the threads rewoven, or new pieces set in. If buttons or fastenings have pulled off, tearing the cloth, a strip of narrow linen or cotton tape may be hemmed to each side of the garment and the fastenings sewed to this.

CARE OF HATS.

Hats should be cared for properly not only because it is an economy but also because the condition of the hat and the way in which it is worn may make or mar a person's appearance.

A hat should be carefully brushed with a soft brush to remove all dust not only from the hat itself but from the folds of the trimming. A piece of velvet should be used to wipe the dust from silk or satin hats. Straw hats may be wiped with a cloth dipped in alcohol to remove dust.

For a hat with a brim that is easily marred, a hatstand either of the commercial type or made at home out of a strip of stiff heavy paper about 9 or 10 inches wide and rolled so as to be narrower at the top than at the base, is good because it keeps the brim of the hat from rubbing against the shelf or the bottom of the box. Tissue paper laid over the top of the hat will protect it from dust. A hat not in constant use should be stored in a box as dust proof as possible and as a further precaution the top of the box may be covered with tissue paper.

Trimnings that become loosened by wind or wear should be tacked into place in the following way: Thread a long needle (preferably a milliner's needle) with coarse thread or silk of a color that will not be conspicuous. Draw the needle from the wrong side through the hat beside the loosened trimming, leaving 2 or 3 inches of thread on the wrong side; pass the needle up and down around the trimming and back to the wrong side of the hat; pull the thread through; tie the two ends securely and cut them a quarter of an inch beyond the knot.

A velvet or silk hat wet by a shower should be hung over a stove or a radiator, care being taken to keep the hat in shape and prevent its

being marred by touching anything. This treatment may save the price of freshening or even of a new hat.

Hats that have been badly wet and then dried are often improved by careful steaming. This may be done by holding the outside of the hat over the spout of a boiling teakettle or over a wet cloth placed on a hot inverted iron. Wire stands made for the purpose of holding the iron in this position can be purchased.

CARE OF GLOVES.

Kid gloves should be carefully drawn from the hands, not pulled off by the finger tips. When the glove has been drawn off, the fingers may be inflated by blowing into the glove, then the fingers should be pulled gently before putting the gloves away. Silk gloves may be turned wrong side out in drawing them off the hands. Cotton gloves will stand hard usage, but some care should be exercised to prevent the stitching from loosening at the finger tips.

Gloves should always be put away in pairs and the thumbs should be folded over on the gloves. Long narrow boxes or baskets are good containers for gloves. Kid gloves are an expensive luxury if sent continually to the commercial cleanser, but they may be cleaned at home if one has the time. One method that has seemed practical is to rub the soiled parts of the gloves with cornmeal, moistened with enough gasoline to keep the meal from scratching the gloves, then to dry them thoroughly in the air. Another method is to shake them up and down in a fruit jar partly filled with gasoline, changing the gasoline until it remains clear. Gasoline must always be used in the open air, because it is very inflammable and explosive. White kid gloves clean more satisfactorily than the colored.

Washable kid gloves may be cleaned by putting them on the hands and washing them in lukewarm suds made with neutral white soap, rinsing them thoroughly, and drying them slowly. A little talcum powder rubbed in after the gloves are dry restores the soft finish to many kinds.

Silk gloves are best washed in cold or lukewarm suds made with good white soap or white soap chips; they should be well rinsed. It is better to wash white silk gloves at night, to prevent their turning yellow from the combined effect of light and moisture.

Cotton fabric gloves may be washed in lukewarm suds, rinsed, and hung in the air to dry.

Gloves often repay the labor of repairs, especially if put in order when the hole or the rip first appears. For mending kid, a short needle should be used and cotton thread rather than silk because the latter tends to tear the kid. Small rips should be sewn to match the original stitching as nearly as possible. For a large hole or in case the kid is weak, the edges may be buttonholed and then the two opposite

rows of buttonholing overhanded together; this makes a strong seam. Sometimes torn places may be patched with a bit of kid from an old glove of similar color. Fabric gloves may be darned with fine soft thread. Many glove dealers will mend torn places for a small sum and should do it without charge on defective gloves of good quality from their own shop. If a snapper pulls out, the dealer from whom the gloves were purchased will probably replace it, or an ordinary snap fastener, such as is used on dresses, may be substituted.

CARE OF SHOES.

Careful poise of the body in walking prolongs the life of shoes. A careless, slipshod gait wears shoes unevenly, while an erect carriage tends to keep the soles and heels level.

Shoes, even more than most other articles of clothing, need to be aired after wearing in order to prevent the perspiration from rotting the lining. It is a good plan to keep them on shoe-trees or stuffed with tissue paper, because in this way the wrinkles are forced out and the original shape is preserved. Wetting tends to spoil the appearance of shoes and to shorten their period of service; therefore overshoes should be worn in bad weather to protect the shoes. If shoes do get wet, they should be very slowly and carefully dried, for heat tends to crack the leather. It is especially important to restore the shape of wet shoes by shoe-trees or paper stuffing. Even with the most careful drying, moisture tends to rot the threads with which a shoe is sewn, and "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

For walking in snow or deep mud, arctics with rubber soles and waterproof cloth tops afford excellent protection, as do also rubber boots. When only a little protection is needed, the slip-on, or sandal, is comfortable and economical, for it covers the sole of the shoe but leaves the heel free. All types of rubber overshoes are now so expensive that they should be treated as carefully as the shoes they protect. They should be kept away from great heat, and set "right side up with care" to prevent their losing shape. They should also be washed, or brushed so that the grit on them may not wear down the surface.

It is economy to keep two pairs of shoes in use and wear them on alternate days; the thorough airing on shoe-trees or stuffed with paper keeps them fresher and more shapely so that each pair gives longer service. All shoes should be kept clean and well brushed. Leather shoes may be rubbed with vaseline to keep them soft, and also to keep moisture from passing so quickly through the leather. Only good polishes should be used. In using paste polishes, a brush is preferable to a cloth, as it will force the paste into all crevices. The shoes should stand a few minutes after the paste is applied; then they should be brushed with a flat stiff brush and polished with a cloth or a buffer, a brush made of layers of cloth having a napped

surface. A glove made of sheepskin with the wool on, such as is used for rubbing furniture, is also very good for polishing shoes.

White canvas shoes are usually cleaned with one of the commercial preparations for this purpose. If water is used, no more than necessary should be applied on the shoes and they must be cleaned on shoe-trees or stuffed with paper to prevent the canvas from shrinking.

✦ If they are badly soiled, they may be washed with a soap that contains whiting, dried, and if necessary treated with a commercial cleaner. All traces of the cleaner should be carefully wiped from the edges of a colored sole; otherwise the shoe will have a slovenly appearance. White suede and buckskin shoes are cleaned in much the same general way, but with special cleaners made for the purpose.

Where conservation of space is not necessary, a small chest for holding shoes may be added to the furnishings of the bedroom; or shoe bags hung on the inside of the closet door are good. Pairs of bags in different colors are very useful for packing shoes when traveling; they keep the shoes from being scratched, prevent them from soiling other articles, and make it possible to sort out a particular pair quickly.

Shoe repairing has become such an art that shoes must be of very poor leather indeed if they will not stand repairs. Run-down heels spoil the shape of shoes and should be leveled at once. If the shoes are of good leather, well shaped, and well made, it is worth while to have full soles hand sewed on them and new heels put on when the first set wears through. Shoes thus mended will outwear those repaired with ordinary half soles, and also have a much better appearance. Brass rather than iron nails in the heels make less noise in walking. Rubber heels prevent jarring in walking and for this reason are very comfortable; for some persons they seem to wear longer than leather heels.

STORING CLOTHING.

Storage facilities whether for clothing in daily use or for that put away for the season should provide for an orderly arrangement in chests, closets, or drawers. If the closet is fitted with a rod to hold hangers, the space can be used to better advantage. Closets and cupboards filled with clothing should be frequently aired. A good plan is to leave the door of the clothes closet in the bedroom open every night.

✦ Special covers are useful to protect garments left hanging for some time. Dainty covers for delicate dresses may be made of dimity or lawn, and heavier ones for general use of cheap calico. A well-shaped cover of this sort is shown in figure 10. It is made of two strips of material, the longer one being buttoned up on the other to keep out dust at the bottom. It is shaped at the shoulder and has a neck piece through which the coat hanger passes. A cover of this

kind may be bound on the edges or finished with plain seams and hemmed at bottom and top. Short covers for waists or for dresses with delicate yokes and fronts are also useful.

If the storage space is limited, a bed box, or long, shallow, wooden box equipped with hinged cover and castors so that it can be rolled under the bed out of sight, may prove useful; or an upholstered box couch may be used for the double purpose of couch and packing box.

Portable closets, made of heavy cloth supported by an iron frame, are on the market in some places.

All garments should be put away clean. The longer a fabric remains soiled, the harder it is to clean. Many stains, including those from perspiration, grow deeper in color with time until it is almost impossible to remove them. Also moths are much more likely to attack soiled garments than those that have been thoroughly cleaned.

When garments are put away for the season, they must be protected against wrinkling, stretching, rubbing, dust, change of color, and insects. Coats, suits, skirts, and dresses are often best left hanging in the closet, provided they are covered. Circular skirts, heavily trimmed garments, or those made of loose sleazy materials, however, should not be left hanging because they are likely to stretch. Dresses and waists of delicate fabrics should be carefully folded and laid in separate boxes. When outer garments are

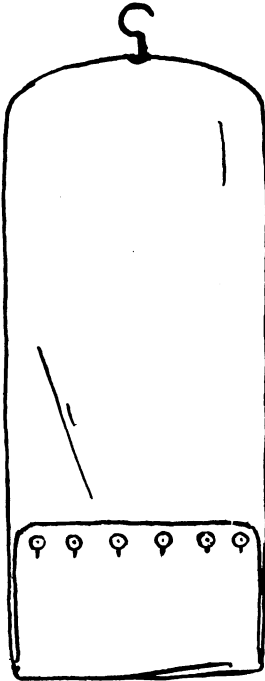


FIG. 10.—Dress cover for use with hanger.

put away folded, care should be taken to have the folds correspond as nearly as possible to those into which the garments fall in use, and nothing heavy should be allowed to rest on them. Garments of delicate color should be stored in the dark to prevent their fading.

Woolen and silk garments should be thoroughly brushed inside and out in order to remove moth eggs. Moth millers and carpet beetles do not themselves harm fabrics, but they lay eggs from which develop caterpillars that feed on woolens and silks. Cedar chips, oil of cedar, moth balls, and other repellents placed in the closet, the bag, or the box in which a garment is stored may prevent millers from laying their eggs in it, but they should not be relied on to prevent eggs already there from hatching. For this reason careful cleaning and wrapping are a better protection than repellents used alone.

Heavy moth-proof paper bags may be bought for storing woolen and silk garments. Homemade ones of newspaper or thick cotton are equally efficient, provided there are no holes through which the millers may enter and in addition some repellent is put in the bag to drive the millers away.

Hats when put away for the season should be thoroughly brushed; if the trimming can not be worn again as it is, it should be ripped off. If space allows, each hat should be packed in a roomy box by itself, preferably with tissue paper, to prevent it from being rubbed and marred. Felt or cloth hats, feathers, fur and woolen trimmings must be protected against moths in the same way as woolen garments.

SOME ARTICLES NEEDED FOR THE CARE OF CLOTHING.

The task of keeping garments in order will be much easier if the necessary supplies are kept together in a convenient place.

Every woman who has much mending to do should have a comfortable chair set in good light, and near it she should keep a well-stocked mending basket. In this should be a pincushion or a needle-book in which are needles threaded with silk and cotton thread of different sizes and colors, ready for emergency work. The basket should also contain whatever sewing materials experience has proved most useful for her particular needs. They should include at least the following:

Hooks and eyes.	Tape of several widths.	Scissors.
Snap fasteners.	Small pieces of cotton,	Thimble.
Buttons.	linen, woolen, and silk	Emery.
Sewing thread of different	materials for patching.	Needles.
colors.	Darning cotton.	Pins.
Sewing silk.	Mending tissue.	

Also a good plan is to have each bedroom, including the guest room, equipped with a small box or basket containing the articles most commonly used in mending. Anyone who travels frequently will find useful a compact little sewing kit that can be slipped into the traveling bag.

It is also desirable to keep some of the things most used for removing spots and stains where one can get at them quickly. In many households these are kept in the laundry, but in others it is found convenient to keep in the bathroom a nonexplosive solvent, such as carbon tetrachloride, an absorbent, such as magnesia, a little blotting paper, borax, ammonia, a small glass rod with rounded end, a small sponge, and possibly a small bowl. A person is more likely to wash out gloves, silk stockings, collars, and other small articles promptly, if the proper kind of soap and perhaps a little bluing are at hand. Experienced travelers often carry with them small amounts of such materials.

Time and thought are necessary in order to keep the individual or the family wearing apparel above reproach in appearance and to make it last as long as possible, but keeping supplies at hand, watching details, and making repairs promptly will in the long run bring generous returns in time, money, and materials saved.